

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The preform of Claim 55 which further includes a rib connector integrally moulded with and extending from first non-expanding region and forming a continuous connection between said first rib and said second rib throughout the length of said loop.

24. (Previously presented) The preform of Claim 23 and wherein said second non- expanding region forms part of a temperature transition zone.

25. (Previously presented) The preform of Claim 24 and wherein said first non-expanding region forms part of said temperature transition zone.

26. (Previously presented) The preform of Claim 24 wherein deformation of said temperature transition zone takes place during a stretch blow moulding process.

27. (Previously presented) The preform of Claim 26 manufactured by a two stage injection moulding process wherein material is injected at different locations in the die to form a preform adapted to be compose from more than one type of material.

28. (Original) The preform of Claim 27 wherein during at least one stage of said two stage process an inner wall and outer wall of said preform is formed, said inner wall adapted to be made from a different material from said outer wall.

Claims 29-54 (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) A preform for a container comprised of orientable plastics material and arranged so that the resultant blown container will include a handle, said preform comprising:

- a moulded structure having a neck portion and an expandable portion below the neck portion;

- a locating ring between the neck portion and the expandable portion;

- a first non-expanding region below the locating ring, the first non-expanding region formed so as to be slightly raised or otherwise differentiated from the expandable portion of said perform;

a second non-expanding region below the first non-expanding region, wherein the second non-expanding region is not differentiated from the expandable portion of said perform; and

at least one loop of orientable plastics material integrally connected at both a first end and a second end to a respective first location and a separate second location on said preform which when the container is formed constitutes said handle, the loop including a first rib integrally moulded therewith, and a second rib integrally moulded with and extending from the second non-expanding region.